

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. An absorbent article having a backsheet and a topsheet comprising a first waist region, a second waist region, and a crotch region interposed there between, a longitudinal axis, and an opening, which provides a passageway to a primary void space for receiving bodily exudates therein, positioned between the topsheet and the backsheet; whereby the opening is positioned in at least the crotch region along the longitudinal axis; whereby the topsheet is elasticated; and whereby the article has a shortened article portion, as defined herein, which has a shortened article length  $L$ , a stretched shortened article length  $L_s$ , the article having an elastic profile of:  
  
0.25 $L_s$  by a first load force of less than 0.6 N, 0.55 $L_s$  by a first load force of less than 5N, and 0.8 $L_s$  by a first load force of less than 10.0N; and a second unload force at 0.55 $L_s$  of more than 0.4N, and a second unload force at 0.80 $L_s$  of more than 1.4N.
2. An absorbent article having a backsheet and a topsheet comprising a first waist region, a second waist region, and a crotch region interposed there between, a longitudinal axis, and an opening, which provides a passageway to a primary void space for receiving bodily exudates therein, positioned between the topsheet and the backsheet, whereby the opening is positioned in at least the crotch region along the longitudinal axis; whereby the topsheet is elasticated; and whereby the article has a shortened article portion, as defined herein, which has a shortened article length  $L$ , a stretched shortened article length  $L_s$ , the article having a topsheet with a shortened topsheet length  $L_t$ , and an elastic profile of:  
  
1.5 $L_t$  by a first load force of less than 1.1N, 3.0 $L_t$  by a first load force of less than 2.1N, and 4.5 $L_t$  by a first load force of less than 3.0N; and a second unload force at 4.5 $L_t$  of more than 0.9N, a second unload force at 3.0 $L_t$  of more than 0.5N, and a second unload force at 1.5 $L_t$  of more than 0.1N.
3. An absorbent article having a backsheet and a topsheet comprising a first waist region, a second waist region, and a crotch region interposed there between, a longitudinal axis, and an opening, which provides a passageway to a primary void space for receiving bodily exudates therein, positioned between the topsheet and the backsheet; whereby the opening is positioned in at least the crotch region along the longitudinal axis; whereby the topsheet is elasticated; and whereby the article has a shortened article portion, as defined herein,

which has a shortened article length  $L$ , a stretched shortened article length  $L_s$  and a contracted shortened article length  $L_c$ , whereby  $L_c$  is less than  $0.5L_s$ .

4. An absorbent article as in claim 1 having a contracted shortened article length  $L_c$ , whereby  $L_c$  is less than  $0.5L_s$ .
5. An absorbent article as in claim 2, which has a ratio of the load force to the unload force of:  
(1<sup>st</sup> Load  $0.50 L_s$  / 2<sup>nd</sup> Unload  $0.50 L_s$ ) less than 20;  
(1<sup>st</sup> Load  $0.65 L_s$  / 2<sup>nd</sup> Unload  $0.65 L_s$ ) is less than 9; and  
(1<sup>st</sup> Load  $0.80 L_s$  / 2<sup>nd</sup> Unload  $0.80 L_s$ ) of less than 7.
6. An article as in claim 1 whereby the slit opening comprises longitudinally opposing side edges, each having one or more elasticated regions disposed along each of the side edges, preferably the length of the slit opening being less than the length of the topsheet and the elastic regions being longer than the side edges, extending longitudinally from said side edges.
7. An article as in claim 6, which has a first waistband, adjacent to the first waist region of the topsheet, to which one end of each of the elasticated regions are connected; and a second waistband, adjacent to the second waist region of the topsheet, to which the other end portion of each elasticated regions are connected.
8. An article as in claim 6 whereby each elasticated region has one or more elastic bands, longitudinally along said side regions, the elastic band having a width of 5 to 30mm.
9. An article as in claim 7 whereby the elasticated regions in relaxed position are positioned under an angle with the adjacent area of the topsheet, such that the elasticated regions bend away from the void space.
10. An article as in claim 6 the elasticated regions have each a first and second end edge and a first and second centre point located therein between, the elastic regions each being curved such that the shortest distance between the first end edge of one elastic region and the first end edge of the other elastic region and also the shortest distance between the second end edge of one elastic region and the second end edge of the other elastic region, are both larger than the shortest distance between the shortest distance between the first and second center point of the elasticated regions.

11. An article as in a claim 1, which is a disposable absorbent article.
12. An article as claim 11 where the topsheet comprises in part a body adhesive, lotion, and combinations thereof.
13. A wearable absorbent article, preferably diaper or pull-on pants, having a backsheet and a topsheet comprising a first waist region, a second waist region, and a crotch region interposed there between, a longitudinal axis, and an opening, which provides a passageway to a primary void space for receiving bodily exudates therein, positioned between the topsheet and the backsheet; whereby the opening is positioned in at least the crotch region along the longitudinal axis; whereby the topsheet is elasticated; obtainable by a process comprising the steps of:
  - a) providing a first sheet, suitable as a topsheet, and a second sheet, suitable as backsheet, each having a first waist region, second waist region and a crotch region;
  - b) providing an elastic material, preferably in the form of a band;
  - c) applying said elastic material over about the total length of the active part of the first sheet, along the longitudinal axis of the sheet, to form a laminate having the elastic profile as in claim 1;
  - d) cutting a slit opening in the first sheet of step a), or in the laminate of step c), along at least part of the longitudinal axis of the sheet; and
  - e) attaching the first and second sheet along at least part of their longitudinal edges, creating a void space between the first and second sheet, whereby step c), d) and e) can be in any order.
14. An article obtainable by a process as in claim 13, whereby in step c) the elastic material is applied such that an X-shaped elastic region is obtained.